



Greetings!

I am the conservation education contact for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest (GMUG) - Supervisor's Office located in Delta, Colorado. I receive a lot of forest service and other resource agency information on grants (such as green schools), web training and other education opportunities for students and teachers (such as the pollinator partnerships, Monarch joint venture, etc.) positions for educators, new curriculum information ("Discover the Forest"), interesting/interactive nature links and much more - all related to environmental education. Many of you may already receive some of this but I really want to ensure this information gets out to you, your teachers and students so I have developed this initial email list. I hope you will be receptive of this kind of information forwarded to you about every 3 weeks (an example is below). If there is someone else that would be more appropriate for your school or district, or you think should be added to this email list - please let me know. I tried to get a contact for each school/or district (an administrative person, communication specialist, principal or science teacher).

Information is geared to all ages. These updates are organized by appropriate age group audience. I am open to ideas or suggestions from you on how best to reach the most educators and students.....

Check out the Forest Service [National Conservation Education](http://www.fs.usda.gov/conservationeducation) Program web page for even more ideas, program information and links (www.fs.usda.gov/conservationeducation). This is also a quick link on the GMUG page.

If a grant opportunity comes out with a short turn-around, I will probably send that out separately.....and as always the Forest Service would be interested and willing to partner on programs for various grants your schools would be interested in pursuing related to getting kids outdoors or learning about natural resources. Thanks you very much for your time. I am optimistic that this will have some fruitful outcomes for students in Western Colorado.

COOL LINKS for all ages....

BatsLIVE-A Distance Learning Adventure. BatsLIVE has launched our website (<http://batslive.pwnet.org>), and will use webinars and live broadcasts to reach kids and their educators AND the professional land management community during International Year of the Bat.

The Monarch Joint Venture (MJV) is a partnership agencies, organizations, and academic programs working to protect the monarch migration in the lower 48 United States. The MJV is committed to a science-based approach to monarch conservation work, guided by the North American Monarch Conservation Plan (2008), and is focused on activities that support monarch habitat conservation, maintenance and enhancement; education; and research and monitoring. <http://monarchjointventure.org/publications.htm>

The Pollinator Partnership's <http://www.pollinator.org/index.html> Their mission is to promote the health of pollinators, critical to food and ecosystems, through conservation, education, and research. Signature initiatives include the NAPPC (North American Pollinator Protection Campaign), **National Pollinator Week**, and the Ecoregional Planting Guides.

HIGH SCHOOL

Planet Connect (PlanetConnect.org; ClassroomEarth.org) is the National Environmental Education Foundation's (NEEF's) online social network, where high school students can learn about current environmental issues, funding opportunities, green colleges and environmental careers. Students can also share and exchange ideas about how they are playing a critical role in solving today's environmental issues.

Planet Connect is administering the 2012 Wildlife Conservation Youth Engagement Grants for high school students with a creative idea for conserving and protecting wildlife - including plants! Planet Connect is offering grants of \$1,000 to implement a project in local schools or communities. In addition, all grantees will receive funding to participate in a local summer internship focused on wildlife conservation or natural resources.

Applications are due **February 12, 2012**. Get the details at: <http://planetconnect.org/2012wcgrants>

NEEF Contact Info: David Lanham, Education Program Coordinator , 202-261-6483 dlanham@neefusa.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Middle school science journal www.naturalinquirer.org

"**DISCOVER THE FOREST**" - new curriculum that engages youth with the forest and the outdoors

www.discovertheforest.org

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS and younger....

"**DISCOVER THE FOREST**" - new curriculum that engages youth with the forest and the outdoors

www.discovertheforest.org .

Help young children to understand nature and the environment through science www.theinvestigator.org

The Woodsy Owl Program consists of reading **Woodsy's ABC** book and discussing with the children how their lives are enhanced by natural.

http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/conservationeducation/smokey-woodsy/woodsy-owl/?cid=fs_mrs_100615

Blog: Smokey and Woodsy at Your School

Post: Celebrate Woodsy's 40th Birthday!!!

Link: <http://smokeyandwoodsygotoschool.blogspot.com/2011/09/celebrate-woods-40th-birthday.html>

I would like you to share this blog address with your networks: <http://smokeyandwoodsygotoschool.blogspot.com>

The intent is to provide ideas and share stories of how our icons and their National Symbols Cache products are used in the classroom

Next story will be on the **Woodsy's ABC Teacher's Supplement** and our Head Start partnership.

Looking for Woodsy and Smokey products? www.symbols.gov

Leaf Critters® are animated leaves with names that almost match that of their home tree. And they have a stewardship message: to inspire a renewal of the earth and its inhabitants. Adding the Leaf Critters® to already established programs could be a good help in having K-5 children learn their trees. Please look at the website link provided: www.leafcritters.com . The curriculum can be tailored to any site with the trees that are indigenous there.

COLLEGE (graduate and undergraduate)

The Bodie McDowell Scholarship is sponsored by the Outdoor Writers Association of America and awards \$1000-\$5000 to undergrads/grad students studying in the field of outdoor communications. Projects can include print, photography, film, art, or broadcasting. It's a great way to show our nation's youth that enjoying and documenting natural experiences can also reap some financial rewards and possibly turn into a career.

<http://owaa.org/blog/2011/12/scholarships-for-college-students-offered-by-owaa/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming events organized through the [Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education](http://coloradoallianceforenvironmentaleducation.org)